Joint ventures where feasible, have been set up with various friendly countries by importing state of-the-art technologies.

Joint venture products would be used by the partner countries, which could also be exported to other friendly countries, depending upon the agreements.

Crash of ALWH Dhruv

†1699. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recurring accidents of Advanced Light Weight Helicopter 'Dhruv' of Indian Air Force, jointly developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, the date-wise details of such accidents;

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to avoid such accidents; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) One Dhruv helicopter of the Indian Air Force (IAF) met with an accident on 2.2.2007 while practicing for the Aero India Show recently. Since its introduction in the IAF, this is the only case of accident involving 'Dhruv' helicopters.

(c) and (d) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill-levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Fatalities of defence aircrafts, choppers and human lives

1700. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.